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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Note verbale dated 1 May 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the note dated 16 March 1992, has the honour to kindly call his attention to the information provided by the Mission in its note dated 28 March 1991 (A/46/131), as required by Article 73 e of the Charter, the terms of which remain valid.

As it has been widely reported, the situation prevailing in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of East Timor under Portuguese administration was seriously and further aggravated when Indonesian military, which have been illegally occupying East Timor since 7 December 1975, opened fire indiscriminately on a crowd of East Timorese unarmed civilians gathered near the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, on 12 November 1991. Hundreds of people were killed or wounded and many dozens are still unaccounted for.

This unacceptable violence prompted a generalized outcry throughout the world. A number of official United Nations documents were circulated regarding the event and its aftermath, including a report issued by the Special Rapporteur on Torture of the Human Rights Commission, who was then visiting the Territory.

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* A/47/50.

It would be worth recalling those documents and their references:

Letter dated 12 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/716-S/23258);

Letter dated 15 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/683);

Letter dated 20 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the United Nations, on behalf of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/694-S/23235);

Letter dated 22 November 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/699-S/23242);

Letter dated 26 November 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Vanuatu to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/714);

Letter dated 3 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/747);

Report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. P. Kooijmans, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/38, visit by the Special Rapporteur to Indonesia and East Timor, 8 January 1992 (E/CN.4/1992/17/Add.1);

Letter dated 24 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/134-S/23757);

Letter dated 6 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Cape Verde to the United Nations, on behalf of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Cape Verde, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/151);

Letter dated 21 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/169).

The Human Rights Commission has agreed to adopt a consensus on the situation of human rights in East Timor, announced by a statement by the Chairman, on 4 March 1992, which was already included in the summary report of the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1992/SR.54/Add.1).

The Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations has the honour to request that the present note be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 99 and 103 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.